

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for pre-processing an access plan generated for a query in a relational database management system to include a direct call mechanism replacing a lookup function of a run-time interpreter, said access plan including a plurality of operation codes, each of said operation codes being associated with one or more executable functions for performing the query, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) determining from the access plan an executable function associated with a first operation code; and
 - (b) augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a pointer to said executable function to provide a direct call mechanism replacing a lookup function of a run-time interpreter.
2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising repeating steps (a) and (b) for the remaining operation codes in the access plan.
3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step (b) comprises augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a pointer to an intermediate function, said intermediate function including a data structure for storing a pointer to said executable function.
4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said data structure includes means for storing information associated with said executable function or said first operation code.
5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step (b) comprises augmenting said first operation code in the access plan with a second pointer to a

data structure, said data structure providing means for storing information associated with said operation code or said executable function.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step (a) further includes assessing the executable function associated with the first operation code and if applicable, replacing the call to the executable function with a call to a second executable function.
7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said intermediate function includes processing operations for the first operation code or the executable function associated with the first operation code.
8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said processing operations in the intermediate function include gathering statistics on the use of the executable function associated with the operation code.
9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said processing operations in the intermediate function include a pause for receiving user input before or after the call to the executable function.
- 10 - 22. (Cancelled)